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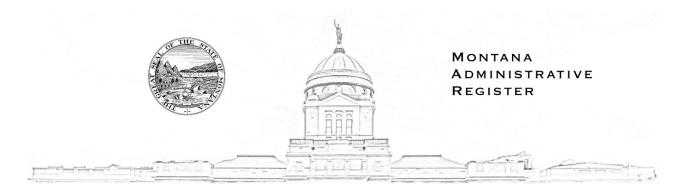
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DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING

MAR NOTICE NO. 2025-5.1

Summary

Amendment of ARM 42.2.511, 42.22.105, and 42.22.107 pertaining to the implementation of Senate Bill 54 (2023)(SB 54) and revisions to centrally assessed property rules

Hearing Date and Time

Monday, March 3, 2025, at 10:30 a.m.

Hearing Information

Third Floor Reception Area Conference Room of the Sam W. Mitchell Building, located at 125 North Roberts, Helena, Montana

Comments

Comments may be submitted to the contact person listed in this notice. Comments must be received by Monday, March 10, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

Accommodations

The agency will make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities who wish to participate in this rulemaking process or need an alternative accessible format of this notice. Requests must be made by Friday, February 14, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

Contact

Todd Olson, Rule Reviewer - Department of Revenue, Legal Services Office (406) 444-7905 todd.olson@mt.gov

General Reasonable Necessity Statement

The department proposes to amend these rules primarily to implement SB 54 changes to statutory valuation cycles of centrally assessed property and associated taxpayer reporting and appeal processes for centrally assessed property appraisals.

Further, the department observes that verbiage and sentence structure within the rules lack a desired level of clarity and consistency which may complicate taxpayer understanding of department procedures. An example is ARM 42.2.511 where the rule describes how centrally assessed company (i.e., taxpayer) appraisal reports are sent, how a taxpayer responds to an appraisal report and how informal department reviews are requested, and how a taxpayer appeals a final Notice of Determination with the department's Office of Dispute Resolution (ODR). Accordingly, the department proposes several amendments throughout the rulemaking to improve grammar, sentence structure, and verbiage with the goal of improving the rules and the public's understanding of the subject matter. The department also proposes removing unnecessary redundancies to what is found in statute or in the department's forms, website, and organizational rule.

While this general statement of reasonable necessity covers the basis for the proposed amendments to the rules, it is supplemented below to explain rule-specific proposals.

Rulemaking Actions

AMEND

The rules proposed to be amended are as follows, stricken matter interlined, new matter underlined:

42.2.511 REVIEW OF CENTRALLY ASSESSED PROPERTY APPRAISALS

- (1) This rule applies to all centrally assessed property tax appraisals issued by the department.
- (1) If a taxpayer is satisfied with the department's appraisal report, no further action is required. The department will notify the taxpayer that the appraisal is final by issuing an assessment notice on or before July 1 of the year of assessment.

- (2) Appraisal reports will be mailed to the taxpayer as provided in ARM 42.22.115. If a taxpayer is dissatisfied, or otherwise objects to the department's appraisal report, The appraisal report shall advise the taxpayer of the requirement to file the taxpayer must submit a Request for Informal Review (Form CAB-8) or a written objection to the appraisal report department within 15 20 days of the date of the appraisal report; and that. The department's contact information will be provided in the appraisal report and in the Form CAB-8.
 - (a) The taxpayer's submission may be sent by U.S. mail or electronic mail but must be postmarked (for U.S. Mail) or received by the department (for electronic mail) within the 20-day period.
 - (b) The taxpayer may request one extension of up to ten days provided the department receives the request within the 20-day period.
 - (c) In no case shall the taxpayer's response time exceed 30 days from the date on the department's appraisal report.
- (3) The department considers a taxpayer's failure to file submit the Form CAB-8 or a written objection detailed letter explaining the reasons for disputing the Notice of Determination within the 15 days shall be deemed an admission that the time prescribed in (2) as the taxpayer's acceptance of the appraisal report is as correct and final. If the taxpayer agrees with the appraisal, no response is required and the department will advise the local department field office and the taxpayer by issuing an assessment notice on or before July 1 of the year of assessment that the appraisal is final.
- (3) Objections to an appraisal report shall be sent to the department within 15 days of the date on the appraisal report. If the objection is sent by the U.S. Postal Service or by any other generally accepted delivery service, the objection must be postmarked within 15 days of the date of the appraisal report. If it is sent by e-mail, it must be sent within 15 days of the date of the appraisal report. Failure to respond within the 15 days shall be deemed an admission that the taxpayer concurs with the appraisal as stated in the appraisal report.
 - (a) Electronic objections will be accepted. The e-mail address is provided in the appeal rights section of the appraisal report.
- (4) Extensions may be granted if both parties agree. The parties may extend the time periods in this rule after the initial objection has been filed by completing an extension form or by detailed letter.
- (5)(4) Within 15 days after its receipt of the taxpayer's Form CAB-8 or a detailed letter explaining the reasons for disputing the Notice of Determination, Fthe department shall will review the objection submission and determine whether the department it agrees or disagrees with the taxpayer's objections. The department shall mail written notice to will notify the taxpayer, in writing, advising the taxpayer of the

department's determination within 15 days after receipt of the objection conclusions.

- (a) If the department concurs <u>agrees</u> with the taxpayer, the matter is resolved by the department will revising revise the appraisal report and issuing issue a final assessment notice.
- (b) If the department disagrees with the taxpayer, it shall explain it will provide the taxpayer with the reasons for the disagreement by issuing and issue a Notice of Determination and revised appraisal report, if applicable, notifying the taxpayer of which will include a copy of the department's dispute resolution (i.e., appeal) procedures and providing a copy of the Notice of Referral to the Office of Dispute Resolution for Centrally Assessed Companies (Form CAB-9). The department shall also notify the taxpayer that the taxpayer must submit Form CAB-9 or any other written objection to the department within 15 days of the date on the Notice of Determination, and that the taxpayer will forfeit the right to a hearing if the taxpayer fails to submit Form CAB-9 or any other written objection within the 15-day period. Appeals should be mailed to the Department of Revenue, Office of Dispute Resolution, P.O. Box 5805, Helena, Montana 59604, or e-mailed to dordisputeresolution@mt.gov. If the objection is sent by the U.S. Postal Service or any other generally accepted delivery service, the objection must be postmarked within 15 days of the date of the department's Notice of Determination. If it is sent by e mail, it must be sent within 15 days of the department's Notice of Determination. Failure to object within the 15 days shall be deemed an admission that the taxpayer concurs with the department's Notice of Determination.
- (6)(5) If the <u>a</u> taxpayer decides to appeals the department's decision Notice of Determination, the taxpayer shall:
 - (a) submit to the department either a Form CAB-9 or any other written objection a detailed letter explaining the reasons for disputing the Notice of Determination with the Office of Dispute Resolution (ODR) within 15 days of the date on the Notice of Determination to request a hearing before the Office of Dispute Resolution (ODR); or
 - (b) upon mutual agreement of the parties, file an appeal with the state Montana $\pm \underline{T}$ ax $\pm \underline{A}$ ppeal $\pm \underline{B}$ oard.
- (6) A taxpayer's Form CAB-9 or a detailed letter explaining the reasons for disputing the Notice of Determination may be sent to the ODR by U.S. mail or electronic mail and must be postmarked (for U.S. Mail) or received (for electronic mail) within 15 days of the date of the Notice of Determination. The ODR's contact information will be provided in the Form CAB-9.

- (7) If the matter is For appeals submitted to the ODR, the department's dispute resolution rules found in ARM 42.2.613 through 42.2.621 will apply. The department has 180 calendar days from the referral date to resolve the matter.
- (8) The parties can agree to may settle the dispute appeal at any point during the appeal process.
- (9) If the department fails to comply with the deadlines in this rule, the taxpayer may immediately refer the matter to the ODR.

Authorizing statute(s): 15-1-201, 15-1-211, 15-23-108, MCA

Implementing statute(s): 15-1-211, 15-1-406, <u>15-7-102</u>, 15-8-601, 15-23-102, 15-23-107, MCA

Reasonable Necessity Statement

The department proposes to amend ARM 42.2.511 as outlined in the department's general statement of reasonable necessity relative to implementing SB 54 and for clarity and consistency of this procedurally oriented administrative rule.

The department proposes to strike current (1) as it is unnecessary and the subject matter is stated in the title (catchphrase) of the rule. The department proposes new (1) to confirm circumstances when no taxpayer action is necessary.

The department also proposes to remove, reorganize, and/or restate portions of current (2) and (3) into new (3) and (4) for brevity and to improve procedural clarity. Examples include the proposed removal of the first sentence in (2) because the cross reference is unnecessary and does not lend to an understanding of the appraisal review process; relocating and restating the content in current stricken (3) to (2) for brevity and clarity; and amending "written objection" to "a detailed letter explaining the reasons for disputing the Notice of Determination" because the department requires a more detailed basis for a taxpayer's disagreement with the appraisal report in order to conduct a thorough informal review.

The department proposes to strike the objection extension deadline in current (4) because it conflicts with SB 54's amendments to 15-7-102(3)(a)(iv), MCA, for initiation of a centrally assessed company's objection(s) to the department's appraisal report.

Like the amendments in new (3) and (4), amendments to new (5) and (6) are proposed to improve procedural clarity and descriptions for a centrally assessed company appealing a Notice of Determination to the Office of Dispute Resolution (ODR). Of note is the proposed removal of "upon mutual agreement of the parties" in new (5)(b) because the department acknowledges that a taxpayer has the right to determine which appeal venue they wish to pursue – through the ODR or the Montana Tax Appeal Board.

42.22.105 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

(1) The valuation and reporting schedule for centrally assessed companies is as follows:

Annual appraisal	Odd-year appraisal	Even-year appraisal
Railroad property	Telegraph, telephone, microwave	Electric power or transmission lines
Net proceeds of mines (except bentonite)	<u>Telecommunications</u> <u>services companies</u>	Natural gas distribution lines
Gross proceeds of coal mines	PSC or FERC-regulated natural gas transmission or oil transmission pipelines	Scheduled airlines
Beneficial user of tax-exempt property	Common carrier pipelines	Centrally assessed property that is not otherwise included in 15- 23-101(2)(a) or (2)(b), MCA
	Gas gathering facilities identified in 15-6-138(5), MCA	
	Dedicated communications infrastructure defined in 15- 6-162(5), MCA	

- (2) If a centrally assessed company owns assets that would otherwise require valuations in consecutive years, and the assets are components of a larger valuation unit, the appropriate reporting and valuation schedule will be based on the category that is most representative of the company's overall interstate or intercounty business. For example, if a centrally assessed company's valuation unit consists of electric utility assets (even-year) and microwave assets (odd-year), and that company's interstate business is electric power, those assets comprising its valuation unit will be valued in even-years.
- (1)(3) Each year all centrally assessed companies shall In the year a centrally assessed company is scheduled to be valued, the company must submit to the department a report of operations, called the Centrally Assessed Annual Property Reporting form, (Report) for the preceding year, as described in (8), and by the due date established for each company type in 15-23-103, MCA. Railroads, railroad car companies, and pipelines shall submit the report by April 15 and all others by March 31, on forms supplied by the department. All Reports must be submitted to the department's Centrally Assessed Property Unit only.

- (4) In accordance with 15-23-103, MCA, and for good cause, the department may grant a centrally assessed company an extension of up to 30 days to submit a Report.
 - (a) Report due date extension requests must:
 - (i) be in writing;
 - (ii) establish the company's good cause for the delay in reporting. For purposes of this rule, "good cause" means the same as "reasonable cause" provided in ARM 42.2.512;
 - (iii) specify the amount of additional time requested up to 30 days; and
 - (iv) be submitted to the department no less than 30 days before a Report is due.
- (5) The department will approve or deny a Report due date extension request within 15 days of receipt and will notify the company, in writing. If the department does not respond within 15 days, the extension request is deemed approved.
- (2) If a centrally assessed company fails to file a report with the department the company will be subject to the penalties listed in 15-23-104, MCA. Submission of an annual business property reporting form to a local department county office does not relieve the company of its requirement to file the Centrally Assessed Annual Reporting form to the centrally assessed unit located in Helena. In addition,
- iIf the department determines that a company is a centrally assessed company meets the criteria for central assessment, that company must cease to file the annual business property reporting form to the department's local county office discontinue its prior filing of business property reporting and must comply with the requirements of (3).
- (a)(7) Based on the appropriate statutory authority, the department shall determine if a company meets the requirements to be centrally assessed. If a company believes that the department has improperly determined that the company it is centrally assessed subject to central assessment, the company must still file the required Centrally Assessed Annual Reporting form, and if desired, appeal the department's centrally assessed determination to the appropriate venue a Report until the central assessment determination is changed by the department, the Montana Tax Appeal Board, or the court.
- (3)(8) The A report shall must contain the following information and/or documents on the operating properties:
 - (a) a balance sheet for the system unit;
 - (b) <u>a</u> statement of income for the system <u>unit;</u>
 - (c) a statement of cash flow for the system unit;

- (d) <u>a statement of original cost and book depreciation for system the unit's</u> property, including an estimate of current value of property leased from others;
- (e) <u>a</u> statement of outstanding preferred stock, common stock, and debt, showing both book value and market value;
- a statement of actual revenue and expense for the Montana operation (if actual amounts are not available, a statement of allocated revenue and expense may be substituted);
- (g) if nonoperating properties are included in (3)(a) through (e), <u>a statement of</u> their original cost, book depreciation, market value, and income;
- (h) <u>a statement of general description</u>, original cost, and book depreciation of Montana properties, including description and location of property leased from others, together with name of lessor, current value or annual rental, and responsibility for the property tax (lessor or lessee);
- (i) if rolling stock is allocated to Montana, a statement of the method used;
- (j) pertinent statistical data on the company's operations within and without this state;
- (k) <u>a copy of the</u> annual report to stockholders;
- (I) <u>a</u> copy of <u>the</u> annual report to the federal regulatory agency if one is filed;
- (m) <u>a copy of the annual report to the Montana Public Service Commission if one is filed;</u>
- (n) in the case of centrally assessed railroads, all information required under ARM 42.22.106;
- (o) in the case of centrally assessed electric utilities, all information required under ARM 42.22.107, if applicable;
- (p) all other information requested by the department which will assist in valuing the properties; and
- (q) <u>a</u> signed statement of correctness.
- (4)(9) In addition to the report submitting the required Report, each centrally assessed company must revise and update statements of update situs and mileage printouts provided by the department statements and return submit them along with the report. The information on the printouts situs and mileage statements shall be reported by county and taxing units in which they are situated. The situs printouts statements shall contain a general description and installed cost for operating situs property.

(10) A company's failure to file a Report or filing an incomplete Report may result in the department appraising the company using the best information available, and will subject the company to the penalties specified in 15-23-104, MCA.

Authorizing statute(s): 15-1-201, 15-23-108, MCA

Implementing statute(s): 15-23-103, 15-23-204, 15-23-212, 15-23-301, 15-23-402, MCA

Reasonable Necessity Statement

The department proposes to amend ARM 42.22.105 as outlined in the department's general statement of reasonable necessity relative to implementing SB 54 and for clarity and consistency of this procedurally oriented administrative rule.

The department proposes new (1) to place the appraisal cycles of centrally assessed property types into a table-style format for ease of reference, and new (2) is proposed to describe department valuation scheduling for a large centrally assessed company that covers multiple property types and is representative of the company's overall interstate or inter-county business, and provide an informational example.

The department proposes amendments in new (3) through (5) which are necessary to clarify how the department administers taxpayer reporting obligations required under 15-23-103, MCA. The department notes that the amendments reflect existing business practices for the Centrally Assessed Property Unit, but the current rule does not articulate certain reporting procedures, such as reporting extension requests, which are authorized under 15-23-103, MCA. Placement of the business practice into rule will add necessary transparency for the public.

The department proposes amendments to (6) through (9), which are described in the general statement of reasonable necessity to improve grammar, sentence structure, and verbiage of the rule.

Finally, the department proposes new (10) which reflects existing business practices for the Centrally Assessed Property Unit in its appraisal methodology and adding the practice into rule will improve transparency for the public.

42.22.107 ADDITIONAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR BENEFICIAL USE OF GOVERNMENT-OWNED TRANSMISSION LINES

(1) Qualifying companies shall provide to the department information on any possession or beneficial use of government-owned transmission lines, as referenced in 15-23-101 and 15-24-1207, MCA, during the preceding calendar year. The information shall be submitted beginning March 31, 1984, and each year thereafter and shall include company must provide the following:

- (a) the name and address of the person, association, or corporation;
- (b) the location of the (tax-exempt property) transmission lines;
- (c) original cost and accrued depreciation of the tax-exempt property;
- (d) copies of all charges from the Bonneville Power Administration for bulk power transfers;
- (e) copies of contracts with the Bonneville Power Administration for use of said the line;
- (f) any other information requested by the department which will assist in valuing the government_owned electric transmission lines.
- (2) If a centrally assessed company's possession or beneficial use of government-owned transmission lines is captured in the department's unit valuation of the company, this additional information must be submitted by March 31 of the year the unit is being valued.

Authorizing statute(s): 15-1-201, 15-24-1207, MCA

Implementing statute(s): 15-24-1207, MCA

Reasonable Necessity Statement

The department proposes to amend ARM 42.22.107 as outlined in the department's general statement of reasonable necessity relative to implementing SB 54 and for clarity and consistency.

The department proposes to remove an outdated provision in (1) and add new (2) to clarify that a centrally assessed company in possession or beneficial use of government-owned transmission lines that are valued every other year is required to report beneficial use information in the year they are reappraised. The department believes this clarification is necessary because the issue is not addressed elsewhere.

Small Business Impact

Pursuant to 2-4-111, MCA, the agency has determined that the rule changes proposed in this notice will not have a significant and direct impact upon small businesses.

Bill Sponsor Notification

The primary bill sponsor of SB 54, Senator Hertz, was contacted by email on October 7, 2024, and on January 28, 2025.

Interested Persons

The Department of Revenue maintains a list of interested persons who wish to receive notices of rulemaking actions proposed by this agency. Persons who wish to have their name added to the list shall make a written request, which includes the name and e-mail or mailing address of the person to receive notices and specifies that the person wishes to receive notice regarding particular subject matter or matters. Notices will be sent by e-mail unless a mailing preference is noted in the request. A written request may be mailed or delivered to the contact person in this notice or may be made by completing a request form at any rules hearing held by the Department of Revenue.

Rule Reviewer

Todd Olson

Approval

Brendan Beatty, Director of Revenue



DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING

MAR NOTICE NO. 2025-7.1

Summary

Amendment of ARM 42.20.105(3) to correct an errant inclusion of text during the MAR Notice No. 42-1083 rulemaking process (effective 10/5/2024)

No Hearing Scheduled

If the agency receives requests for a public hearing on the proposed rulemaking from either 10 percent or 25, whichever is less, of the persons directly affected by the proposed rulemaking; from the appropriate administrative rule review committee of the Legislature; from a governmental subdivision or agency; or from an association having not less than 25 members who will be directly affected, a hearing will be held at a later date. Notice of the hearing will be published in the Montana Administrative Register.

The department estimates the number of those directly affected by this rulemaking to be 2,700.

Comments

Concerned persons may submit their data, views, or arguments to the contact person in this notice. Comments must be received no later than 5:00 p.m., March 10, 2025.

If persons who are directly affected by the proposed action wish to express their data, views, or arguments orally or in writing at a public hearing, they must make written request for a hearing and submit this request along with any written comments to the contact person in this notice. Requests must be received no later than 5:00 p.m., March 10, 2025.

Accommodations

The agency will make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities who wish to participate in this rulemaking process or need an alternative accessible format of this notice. Requests must be received no later than 5:00 p.m., February 14, 2025.

Contact

Todd Olson, Rule Reviewer - Department of Revenue, Legal Services Office (406) 444-7905 todd.olson@mt.gov

Rulemaking Actions

AMEND

The rule proposed to be amended is as follows, stricken matter interlined, new matter underlined:

42.20.105 VALUATION OF CONDOMINIUMS OR TOWNHOMES

- (1) The department will apply an appraisal method for condominiums or townhomes, as defined in 70-23-102, MCA, in accordance with 15-8-111 and 15-8-511, MCA, which must provide for a separate assessment of each condominium or townhome unit.
- (2) The sales comparison approach is used when comparable sales are available and the common elements are included in individual unit values. When comparable sales are not available, the cost approach must be used.
- (3) The income approach is used to value commercial condominium units when reliable income and expense data is available and the common elements of commercial condominiums are included in individual unit values. When reliable income and expense data is not available, the cost or sales comparison approach may be used.
- (4) When the cost approach is used to value residential and commercial condominiums, the department will value each unit individually and allocate the value of common area elements to the units based on the percentage of undivided interest in the condominium declaration, as required by 15-8-111(5)(c), MCA.
- (5) When the cost approach is used to value townhomes with common area elements, the department will value each unit individually and allocate the value of common

- area elements to the units based on the percentage of undivided interest in the recorded townhome declaration, if one was filed.
- (6) The total appraised value of time-share condominiums in a complex will be calculated and assessed to the owner of record (i.e., the time-share association).
- (7) Unit owners seeking a classification change from condominium to townhome must change the legal ownership of the land for the entire complex and the classification change must be ratified by the unit owners in accordance with the unit ownership association entity's governing documents.
 - (a) The unit ownership association entity must submit a Request for Townhome Classification form located at http://www.mtrevenue.gov on or before January 1 of the year for which the classification change is requested. Applications received after January 1 will be considered for the following tax year.
 - (b) In addition to the Request for Townhome Classification form, the department requires the following additional information before changing a property classification from a condominium to a townhome:
 - (i) a description of the size in square footage or acreage of land associated with each townhome unit;
 - (ii) the amount of remaining square footage or acreage of land associated with each townhome unit; and
 - (iii) signed copies of all resolutions, meeting minutes, or other entity governance documents that evidence unit owner ratification of the classification change.

Authorizing statute(s): 15-1-201, MCA

Implementing statute(s): 15-7-103, 15-8-111, 15-8-511, 70-23-102, 70-23-103, 70-23-301, 70-

23-403, MCA

Reasonable Necessity Statement

In MAR Notice No. 42-1083, the department adopted rule amendments to ARM 42.20.105 to implement House Bill 685 (2023) regarding the valuation of commercial condominium units. The department also proposed amendments to simplify the rule, remove unnecessary words, phrases, and obsolete dates, update form submission references and deadlines, and clarify department procedures and/or requirements. The rulemaking became effective October 5, 2024.

Shortly after the adoption of the rulemaking, the department became aware that the phrase "or sales comparison" was present in (3) of the proposed rule's amendments to provide that the department may use the sales comparison approach in addition to the cost approach when reliable income and expense data is not available. This is not consistent with the commercial condominium valuation process provided in 15-8-111(5)(b) and (c), MCA, which states the cost approach must be used when reliable income and expense data is not available.

Accordingly, it is necessary for the department to correct the error and propose removal of "or sales comparison" from ARM 42.20.105(3). The department apologizes for the error and any confusion.

Small Business Impact

Pursuant to 2-4-111, MCA, the agency has determined that the rule changes proposed in this notice will not have a significant and direct impact upon small businesses.

Bill Sponsor Notification

The bill sponsor contact requirements of 2-4-302, MCA, do not apply.

Interested Persons

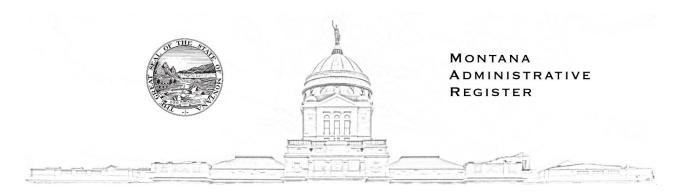
The Department of Revenue maintains a list of interested persons who wish to receive notices of rulemaking actions proposed by this agency. Persons who wish to have their name added to the list shall make a written request, which includes the name and e-mail or mailing address of the person to receive notices and specifies that the person wishes to receive notice regarding particular subject matter or matters. Notices will be sent by e-mail unless a mailing preference is noted in the request. A written request may be sent to the contact person in this notice or may be made by completing a request form at any rules hearing held by the Department of Revenue.

Rule Reviewer

Todd Olson

Approval

Brendan Beatty
Director of Revenue



DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING

MAR NOTICE NO. 2025-21.1

Summary

Amendment of ARM 42.20.675(3) to update agricultural productivity value for bushels of spring wheat for the 2025-2026 reappraisal cycle

No Hearing Scheduled

If the agency receives requests for a public hearing on the proposed rulemaking from either 10 percent or 25, whichever is less, of the persons directly affected by the proposed rulemaking; from the appropriate administrative rule review committee of the Legislature; from a governmental subdivision or agency; or from an association having not less than 25 members who will be directly affected, a hearing will be held at a later date. Notice of the hearing will be published in the Montana Administrative Register.

The estimated number of persons directly affected by the proposed rulemaking is 79,000.

Comments

Concerned persons may submit their data, views, or arguments concerning the proposed action in writing to the contact person in this notice. Comments must be received no later than 5:00 p.m., March 10, 2025.

If persons who are directly affected by the proposed action wish to express their data, views, or arguments orally or in writing at a public hearing, they must make written request for a hearing and submit this request along with any written comments to the contact person in this notice. Requests must be received no later than 5:00 p.m., March 10, 2025.

Accommodations

The agency will make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities who wish to participate in this rulemaking process or need an alternative accessible format of this notice. Requests must be made no later than 5:00 p.m., February 14, 2025.

Contact

Todd Olson, Rule Reviewer - Department of Revenue, Legal Services Office (406) 444-7905 todd.olson@mt.gov

Rulemaking Actions

AMEND

The rule proposed to be amended is as follows, stricken matter interlined, new matter underlined:

42.20.675 IRRIGATED AGRICULTURAL FARM LAND VALUATION

- (1) The department calculates productivity per acre values for irrigated farm land using the formula provided in 15-7-201, MCA. However, the department applies the formula per industry standard as I/R=V.
- (2) The department calculates net income per acre (I) by:
 - (a) multiplying the land's soil productivity by the average commodity price provided in ARM 42.20.681 to determine the gross income per acre;
 - (b) multiplying the gross income per acre by the land owner's typical crop share percentage for irrigated farm land which is 25%; and
 - (c) subtracting the \$50.00 allowable water cost per acre of irrigated farm land from the value determined in (2)(b).
- (3) The department calculates the minimum value of irrigated farm land by determining net income per acre (I) by:
 - (a) multiplying a productivity of 23 <u>21</u> bushels of spring wheat per acre by the commodity price provided in ARM 42.20.681 to determine gross income per acre; and
 - (b) multiplying the gross income per acre by the land owner's typical crop share percentage for non-irrigated continuously cropped farm land which is 25%.

(4) Pursuant to 15-7-201, MCA, the department assigns the irrigated farm land the higher per acre value as calculated in (2) and (3).

Authorizing statute(s): 15-1-201, MCA

Implementing statute(s): 15-7-103, 15-7-201, MCA

Reasonable Necessity Statement

The department proposes to amend ARM 42.20.675(3)(a) with the current production data for the base period obtained from the Montana Agricultural Statistics which is used for valuing agricultural lands in the upcoming reappraisal cycle. The department's use of the Montana Agricultural Statistics as its data source is required by 15-7-201, MCA.

The department inadvertently omitted this necessary amendment when agricultural commodity prices and values were proposed under MAR Notice No. 42-1087 during the fourth quarter of 2024. The department apologizes for the oversight.

Small Business Impact

Pursuant to 2-4-111, MCA, the agency has determined that the rule changes proposed in this notice will not have a significant and direct impact upon small businesses.

Bill Sponsor Notification

The bill sponsor contact requirements of 2-4-302, MCA, do not apply.

Interested Persons

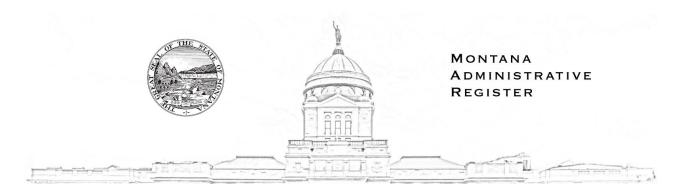
The department maintains a list of interested persons who wish to receive notices of rulemaking actions proposed by this agency. Persons who wish to have their name added to the list shall make a written request that includes the name, email, and mailing address of the person to receive notices and specifies for which program the person wishes to receive notices. Notices will be sent by e-mail unless a different mailing preference is noted in the request. A written request may be mailed or delivered to the contact person in this notice or may be made by completing a request form at any rules hearing held by the department.

Rule Reviewer

Todd Olson

Approval

Brendan Beatty, Director of Revenue



BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

NOTICE OF ADOPTION

MAR NOTICE NO. 10-53-140

Summary

Adoption of NEW RULES I through VIII and repeal of ARM 10.54.8510, 10.54.8511, 10.54.8512, 10.54.8513, 10.54.8520, 10.54.8521, 10.54.8522, 10.54.8523, 10.54.8530, 10.54.8531, 10.54.8532, 10.54.8533, 10.54.8540, 10.54.8541, 10.54.8542, 10.54.8543, 10.54.8550, 10.54.8551, 10.54.8552, 10.54.8553, 10.54.8560, 10.54.8561, 10.54.8562, 10.54.8563, 10.54.8570, 10.54.8571, 10.54.8572, 10.54.8573, 10.54.8580, 10.54.8581, 10.54.8582, 10.54.8583, 10.54.8590, 10.54.8591, 10.54.8592, 10.54.8593, 10.54.8607, 10.54.8608, 10.54.8609, 10.54.8610, 10.54.8611, 10.54.8612, 10.54.8613, 10.54.8614, 10.54.8615, 10.54.8616, 10.54.8617, and 10.54.8618 pertaining to World Language Content Standards

Previous Notice(s) and Hearing Information

On August 9, 2024, the Board of Public Education (board) published MAR Notice No. 10-53-140 pertaining to the public hearing on the proposed adoption and repeal of the above-stated rules at page 1946 of the 2024 Montana Administrative Register, Issue Number 15.

Final Rulemaking Action – Effective July 1, 2026

ADOPT AS PROPOSED

The agency has adopted the following rules as proposed:

NEW RULE II (10.53.1401) WORLD LANGUAGE CONTENT STANDARD 1 – COMMUNICATION

NEW RULE II (10.53.1402) WORLD LANGUAGE CONTENT STANDARD 2 – CULTURES

NEW RULE III (10.53.1403) WORLD LANGUAGE CONTENT STANDARD 3 – CONNECTIONS

NEW RULE IV (10.53.1404) WORLD LANGUAGE CONTENT STANDARD 4 – COMPARISONS

NEW RULE V (10.53.1405) WORLD LANGUAGE CONTENT STANDARD 5 – COMMUNITIES

NEW RULE VI (10.53.1406) WORLD LANGUAGES PERFORMANCE DESCRIPTORS AT THE NOVICE LEVEL

NEW RULE VII (10.53.1407) WORLD LANGUAGES PERFORMANCE DESCRIPTORS AT THE INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

NEW RULE VIII (10.53.1408) WORLD LANGUAGES PERFORMANCE DESCRIPTORS AT THE ADVANCED LEVEL

REPEAL

The agency has repealed the following rules as proposed:

10.54.8510 WORLD LANGUAGES CONTENT STANDARD 1

10.54.8511 BENCHMARK FOR WORLD LANGUAGES CONTENT STANDARD 1 FOR END OF BENCHMARK 1

10.54.8512 BENCHMARK FOR WORLD LANGUAGES CONTENT STANDARD 1 FOR END OF BENCHMARK 2

10.54.8513 BENCHMARK FOR WORLD LANGUAGES CONTENT STANDARD 1 FOR END OF BENCHMARK 3

10.54.8520 WORLD LANGUAGES CONTENT STANDARD 2

10.54.8521 BENCHMARK FOR WORLD LANGUAGES CONTENT STANDARD 2 FOR END OF BENCHMARK 1

10.54.8522 BENCHMARK FOR WORLD LANGUAGES CONTENT STANDARD 2 FOR END OF BENCHMARK 2

10.54.8523 BENCHMARK FOR WORLD LANGUAGES CONTENT STANDARD 2 FOR END OF BENCHMARK 3

10.54.8530 WORLD LANGUAGES CONTENT STANDARD 3

10.54.8531 BENCHMARK FOR WORLD LANGUAGES CONTENT STANDARD 3 FOR END OF BENCHMARK 1

10.54.8532 BENCHMARK FOR WORLD LANGUAGES CONTENT STANDARD 3 FOR END OF BENCHMARK 2

10.54.8533 BENCHMARK FOR WORLD LANGUAGES CONTENT STANDARD 3 FOR END OF BENCHMARK 3

- 10.54.8540 WORLD LANGUAGES CONTENT STANDARD 4
- 10.54.8541 BENCHMARK FOR WORLD LANGUAGES CONTENT STANDARD 4 FOR END OF BENCHMARK 1
- 10.54.8542 BENCHMARK FOR WORLD LANGUAGES CONTENT STANDARD 4 FOR END OF BENCHMARK 2
- 10.54.8543 BENCHMARK FOR WORLD LANGUAGES CONTENT STANDARD 4 FOR END OF BENCHMARK 3
- 10.54.8550 WORLD LANGUAGES CONTENT STANDARD 5
- 10.54.8551 BENCHMARK FOR WORLD LANGUAGES CONTENT STANDARD 5 FOR END OF BENCHMARK 1
- 10.54.8552 BENCHMARK FOR WORLD LANGUAGES CONTENT STANDARD 5 FOR END OF BENCHMARK 2
- 10.54.8553 BENCHMARK FOR WORLD LANGUAGES CONTENT STANDARD 5 FOR END OF BENCHMARK 3
- 10.54.8560 WORLD LANGUAGES CONTENT STANDARD 6
- 10.54.8561 BENCHMARK FOR WORLD LANGUAGES CONTENT STANDARD 6 FOR END OF BENCHMARK 1
- 10.54.8562 BENCHMARK FOR WORLD LANGUAGES CONTENT STANDARD 6 FOR END OF BENCHMARK 2
- 10.54.8563 BENCHMARK FOR WORLD LANGUAGES CONTENT STANDARD 6 FOR END OF BENCHMARK 3
- 10.54.8570 WORLD LANGUAGES CONTENT STANDARD 7
- 10.54.8571 BENCHMARK FOR WORLD LANGUAGES CONTENT STANDARD 7 FOR END OF BENCHMARK 1
- 10.54.8572 BENCHMARK FOR WORLD LANGUAGES CONTENT STANDARD 7 FOR END OF BENCHMARK 2
- 10.54.8573 BENCHMARK FOR WORLD LANGUAGES CONTENT STANDARD 7 FOR END OF BENCHMARK 3
- 10.54.8580 WORLD LANGUAGES CONTENT STANDARD 8

- 10.54.8581 BENCHMARK FOR WORLD LANGUAGES CONTENT STANDARD 8 FOR END OF BENCHMARK 1
- 10.54.8582 BENCHMARK FOR WORLD LANGUAGES CONTENT STANDARD 8 FOR END OF BENCHMARK 2
- 10.54.8583 BENCHMARK FOR WORLD LANGUAGES CONTENT STANDARD 8 FOR END OF BENCHMARK 3
- 10.54.8590 WORLD LANGUAGES CONTENT STANDARD 9
- 10.54.8591 BENCHMARK FOR WORLD LANGUAGES CONTENT STANDARD 9 FOR END OF BENCHMARK 1
- 10.54.8592 BENCHMARK FOR WORLD LANGUAGES CONTENT STANDARD 9 FOR END OF BENCHMARK 2
- 10.54.8593 BENCHMARK FOR WORLD LANGUAGES CONTENT STANDARD 9 FOR END OF BENCHMARK 3
- 10.54.8607 ADVANCED WORLD LANGUAGES PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR THE END OF BENCHMARK 1
- 10.54.8608 PROFICIENT WORLD LANGUAGES PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR THE END OF BENCHMARK 1
- 10.54.8609 NEARING PROFICIENCY WORLD LANGUAGES PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR THE END OF BENCHMARK 1
- 10.54.8610 NOVICE WORLD LANGUAGES PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR THE END OF BENCHMARK 1
- 10.54.8611 ADVANCED WORLD LANGUAGES PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR THE END OF BENCHMARK 2
- 10.54.8612 PROFICIENT WORLD LANGUAGES PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR THE END OF BENCHMARK 2
- 10.54.8613 NEARING PROFICIENCY WORLD LANGUAGES PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR THE END OF BENCHMARK 2
- 10.54.8614 NOVICE WORLD LANGUAGES PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR THE END OF BENCHMARK 2
- 10.54.8615 ADVANCED WORLD LANGUAGES PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR THE END OF BENCHMARK 3

10.54.8616 PROFICIENT WORLD LANGUAGES PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR THE END OF BENCHMARK 3

10.54.8617 NEARING PROFICIENCY WORLD LANGUAGES PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR THE END OF BENCHMARK 3

10.54.8618 NOVICE WORLD LANGUAGES PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR THE END OF BENCHMARK 3

Statement of Reasons

No comments were received.

Contact

McCall Flynn (406) 444-6576 bpe@mt.gov

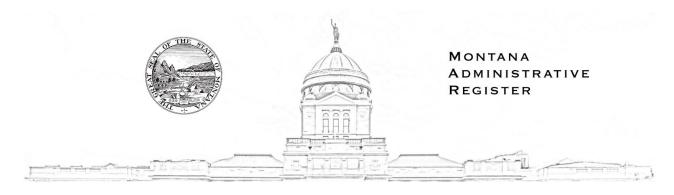
Rule Reviewer

McCall Flynn, Executive Director

Approval

Dr. Tim Tharp, Chair

Board of Public Education



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

NOTICE OF ADOPTION

MAR NOTICE NO. 8-111-216

Summary

Amendment of ARM 8.111.602 pertaining to the Housing Credit program

Previous Notice(s) and Hearing Information

On December 20, 2024, the Department of Commerce published MAR Notice No. 8-111-216 pertaining to the public hearing on the proposed amendment of the above-stated rule at page 2563 of the 2024 Montana Administrative Register, Issue Number 24.

Final Rulemaking Action – Effective February 8, 2025

AMEND AS PROPOSED

The agency has amended the following rule as proposed:

8.111.602 DEFINITIONS

Statement of Reasons

No comments were received.

Contact

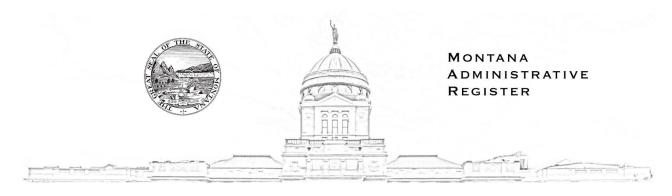
Jada Maynor (406) 841-2596 jada.maynor@mt.gov Montana Relay: 711

Rule Reviewer

Tori Koch

Approval

Mandy Rambo, Deputy Director



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

NOTICE OF ADOPTION

MAR NOTICE NO. 36-224

Summary

Amendment of ARM 36.25.901 and 36.25.903 pertaining to state land leasing real estate management projects

Previous Notice(s) and Hearing Information

On October 4, 2024, the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation published MAR Notice No. 36-224 pertaining to the public hearing on the proposed amendment of the above-stated rules at page 2395 of the 2024 Montana Administrative Register, Issue Number 19. A public hearing was held on November 7, 2024, and the end of the comment period was November 7, 2024.

Final Rulemaking Action – Effective February 8, 2025

AMEND AS PROPOSED

The agency has amended the following rules as proposed:

36.25.901 DEFINITIONS

36.25.903 GENERAL APPLICABILITY

Statement of Reasons

No comments were received.

Contact

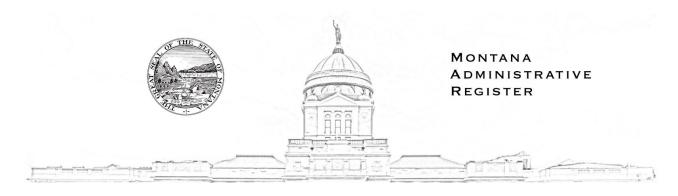
Jamie Price, Rules Coordinator (406) 444-6615 DNRCOAH@mt.gov

Rule Reviewer

Luke Casey

Approval

Amanda Kaster, Director



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

NOTICE OF ADOPTION

MAR NOTICE NO. 36-225

Summary

Amendment of ARM 36.25.145, 36.25.146, 36.25.149, 36.25.150, 36.25.152, 36.25.157, 36.25.158, and 36.25.159 pertaining to recreational use of state lands

Previous Notice(s) and Hearing Information

On September 6, 2024, the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation published MAR Notice No. 36-225 pertaining to the public hearing on the proposed amendment of the above-stated rules at page 2122 of the 2024 Montana Administrative Register, Issue Number 17. A public hearing was held on September 26, 2024, and the end of comment period was October 4, 2024.

Final Rulemaking Action – Effective February 8, 2025

AMEND AS PROPOSED

The agency has amended the following rules as proposed:

36.25.145 DEFINITIONS

36.25.146 GENERAL RECREATIONAL USE OF STATE LANDS: LICENSE REQUIREMENT

36.25.150 GENERAL RECREATIONAL USE OF STATE LANDS: CATEGORICAL CLOSURES

36.25.152 GENERAL RECREATIONAL USE OF STATE LANDS: PROCEDURE FOR SITE SPECIFIC CLOSURES

36.25.157 GENERAL RECREATIONAL USE OF STATE LANDS: PENALTIES

36.25.158 GENERAL RECREATIONAL USE OF STATE LANDS: DAMAGE REIMBURSEMENT

36.25.159 GENERAL RECREATIONAL USE OF STATE LANDS: WEED CONTROL MANAGEMENT

AMEND WITH CHANGES

The agency has amended the following rule with the following changes from the original proposal, stricken matter interlined, new matter underlined:

36.25.149 GENERAL RECREATIONAL USE OF STATE LANDS: RESTRICTIONS

- (1) through (1)(j) remain as proposed.
 - (k) From March 1 to December 1, or for an extended period of time if posted on site, the acts described under a recreationist must comply with ARM 12.12.109(1)(a), (b), and (c) are prohibited on state land:
 - (i) and (ii) remain as proposed.
- (2) remains as proposed.

Authorizing statute(s): 77-1-209, 77-1-804, MCA

Implementing statute(s): 77-1-804, MCA

Statement of Reasons

The department has thoroughly considered the comments and testimony received. A summary of the comments received, and the department's responses are as follows:

Comment 1: One comment was received asking the department to rephrase the proposed amendment to ARM 36.25.149(1)(k) to incorporate language "unless the food storage rules found in (1)(a)(i) through (iv) and (b)(i) through (iii) are complied with..." to further clarify the food storage rules under ARM 12.12.109.

Response 1: In response to the comment received, the department amends the proposed language. This amendment is solely to promote clarity; it does not alter the substance of the proposed rule.

Contact

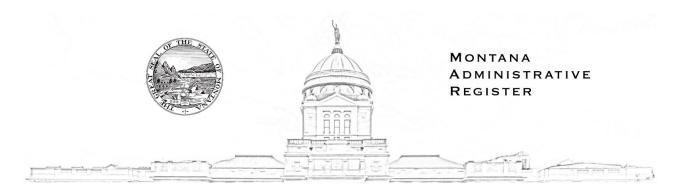
Jamie Price, Rules Coordinator (406) 444-6615 DNRCOAH@mt.gov

Rule Reviewer

Jason Kampman

Approval

Amanda Kaster, Director



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION

NOTICE OF ADOPTION

MAR NOTICE NO. 38-5-264

Summary

Amendment of ARM 38.5.2202 and 38.5.2302 pertaining to pipeline safety

Previous Notice(s) and Hearing Information

On December 6, 2024, the department published MAR Notice No. 38-5-264 pertaining to the proposed amendment of the above-stated rules at page 2548 of the 2024 Montana Administrative Register, Issue Number 23.

Final Rulemaking Action - Effective February 8, 2025

AMEND AS PROPOSED

The agency has amended the following rules as proposed:

38.5.2202 INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE OF FEDERAL PIPELINE SAFETY REGULATIONS

38.5.2302 INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE OF FEDERAL PIPELINE SAFETY REGULATIONS -- DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING AND PREVENTION PROGRAMS

Statement of Reasons

No comments were received.

Contact

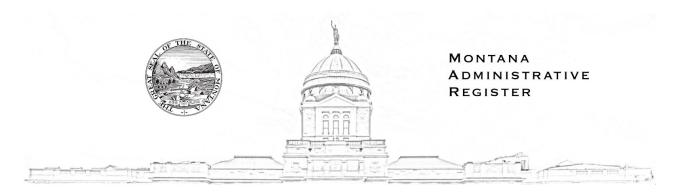
Department of Public Service Regulation (800) 646-6150 pschelp@mt.gov

Rule Reviewer

Amanda S. Webster

Approval

Brad Molnar, President, Public Service Commission



FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF EMERGENCY RULE

MAR NOTICE NO. 2025-37.1

Summary

Adoption of an emergency rule closing the Valley Garden Fishing Access Site on the Madison River in Madison County

Reason

The Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (department) has determined the following reasons justify the adoption of an emergency rule:

- (1) There are large ice jams resulting in water and ice on the entrance road, boat ramp, and in the campground on the Madison River causing unsuitable conditions at the Valley Garden Fishing Access Site.
- (2) The combination of dangerous conditions includes ice covered roadways and accessways and flooding, ultimately rendering unsafe conditions for pedestrian and vehicle travel.
- (3) The site will remain closed until the ice recedes and it is safe for the public to recreate there. Persons recreating at the fishing access site would be at risk of unsafe roadways, injury, or drowning.
- (4) Therefore, as this situation constitutes an imminent peril to public health, safety, and welfare, due to the combination of unsafe conditions and this threat cannot be averted or remedied by any other administrative act, the department adopts the following emergency rule. This emergency rule will be sent as a press release to newspapers throughout the state. Also, signs informing the public of the closure will be posted at access points. The rule will be sent to interested parties and published as an emergency rule in Issue No. 3 of the 2025 Montana Administrative Register.

Effective Date

Friday, January 24, 2025

Accommodations

The agency will make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities who wish to participate in this rulemaking process or need an alternative accessible format of this notice. Requests must be made by Friday, February 21, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

Contact

Audrey Kelly (406) 594-8073 audrey.kelly@mt.gov

ADOPT

The department is adopting:

RULE 1 EMERGENCY CLOSURE OF THE VALLEY GARDEN FISHING ACCESS SITE

- (1) The Valley Garden Fishing Access Site is located in Madison County.
- (2) The Valley Garden Fishing Access Site is closed to pedestrian and motorized vehicle use.
- (3) This rule will expire as soon as the department determines the ice jams have cleared and no longer present a risk to public health and safety. Signs closing the Valley Garden Fishing Access Site will be removed when the rule is no longer effective.

Authorizing statute(s): 2-4-203, 87-1-202, MCA

Implementing statute(s): 2-4-203, 87-1-202, MCA

Interested Persons

The department maintains a list of interested persons who wish to receive notice of rulemaking actions proposed by the department, commission or board. Persons who wish to have their name added to the list shall make a written request that includes the name and mailing or email address of the person to receive the notice. Written requests may be mailed or delivered to the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Legal Unit, P.O. Box 200701, 1420 East Sixth Avenue, Helena, MT 59620-0701, or may be completed online at https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MTFWP/subscriber/new.

Committee Notification

The special notice requirements of 2-4-303, MCA have been met. All committee members and staff of the Environmental Quality Council, with addresses provided on the Montana Legislature's website (leg.mt.gov), were contacted by e-mail on Friday, January 24, 2025.

Rule Reviewer

Jaime MacNaughton

Approval

Christy Clark



FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF EMERGENCY RULE

MAR NOTICE NO. 2025-39.1

Summary

Adoption of an emergency rule partially closing the Drouillard Fishing Access Site on the Jefferson River in Gallatin County

Reason

The Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (department) has determined the following reasons justify the adoption of an emergency rule:

- (1) There are ice jams resulting in water and ice on the boat ramp and adjacent turnaround causing unsuitable conditions at the Drouillard Fishing Access Site.
- (2) The combination of dangerous conditions includes water and ice on the boat ramp and adjacent turnaround, ultimately rendering unsafe conditions for pedestrian and vehicle travel. The boat ramp and vehicle turnaround will remain closed until the ice recedes, but the remainder of the site is still open.
- (3) The partial closure will remain in place until the ice clears and the boat ramp is safe to be used again and it is safe for the public to recreate there. Persons recreating at the fishing access site may be at risk of unsafe roadways, injury, or drowning.
- (4) Therefore, as this situation constitutes an imminent peril to public health, safety, and welfare, due to the combination of unsafe conditions and this threat cannot be averted or remedied by any other administrative act, the department adopts the following emergency rule. This emergency rule will be sent as a press release to newspapers throughout the state. Also, signs informing the public of the closure will be posted at access points. The rule will be sent to interested parties and published as an emergency rule in Issue No. 3 of the 2025 Montana Administrative Register.

Effective Date

Friday, January 24, 2025

Accommodations

The agency will make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities who wish to participate in this rulemaking process or need an alternative accessible format of this notice. Requests must be made by Friday, February 21, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

Contact

Audrey Kelly (406) 594-8073 Audrey.Kelly@mt.gov

ADOPT

The department is adopting:

RULE 1 EMERGENCY CLOSURE OF THE DROUILLARD FISHING ACCESS SITE

- (1) The Drouillard Fishing Access Site is located in Gallatin County.
- (2) The Drouillard Fishing Access Site is partially closed to pedestrian and motorized vehicle use.
- (3) This rule will expire as soon as the department determines the ice jams have cleared and no longer present a risk to public health and safety. Signs partially closing the Drouillard Fishing Access Site will be removed when the rule is no longer effective.

Authorizing statute(s): 2-4-303, 87-1-202, MCA

Implementing statute(s): 2-4-303, 87-1-202, MCA

Interested Persons

The department maintains a list of interested persons who wish to receive notice of rulemaking actions proposed by the department, commission or board. Persons who wish to have their name added to the list shall make a written request that includes the name and mailing or email address of the person to receive the notice. Such written request may be mailed or delivered to the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Legal Unit, P.O. Box 200701, 1420 East Sixth Avenue, Helena, MT 59620-0701, or may be completed online at https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MTFWP/subscriber/new.

Committee Notification

The special notice requirements of 2-4-303, MCA have been met. All committee members and staff of the Environmental Quality Council, with addresses provided on the Montana Legislature's website (leg.mt.gov), were contacted by e-mail on Friday, January 24, 2025.

Rule Reviewer

Jaime MacNaughton

Approval

Christy Clark